

# Kera language

**Kera** is an East Chadic language spoken by 45,000 people in Southwest Chad and 6,000 people in North Cameroon.

It was called "Tuburi" by Greenberg, a name shared with Tupuri.

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## Grammar

Kera is a subject–verb–object language, using prepositions. It uses exclusively borderline case-marking.

## Phonology

The phonetic symbols and charts used are from the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)

### Consonants<sup>[3]</sup>

	Bilabial		Labio- dental		Alveolar		Palatal		Velar		Glottal	
Plosive	p	b			t	d	c		k	g		
Nasal		m				n				ŋ		
Trill						r						
Fricative			f	v	s	z					h	
Approximant								j				
Lateral approximant						l						

### Vowels<sup>[4][5]</sup>

Kera	
<b>Native to</b>	Chad, Cameroon
<b>Native speakers</b>	(50,000 cited 1993) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Language family</b>	<div>Afro-Asiatic<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chadic<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>East Chadic<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>East Chadic A<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Kwang (A.3)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Kera</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></div>
Language codes	
<b>ISO 639-3</b>	ker
<b>Glottolog</b>	kera1255 ( <span>http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/kera1255</span> ) <sup>[2]</sup>

Kera's vowels are, including allophones:

	front	central	back
close	i	ɨ	u
mid	e / ɛ		o / ɔ
open	a / ə		

But can also be expressed as:

- **High** The tongue is positioned near the top of the mouth.
- **Round** The lips are rounded while the vowel is pronounced.
- **Front** The tongue is positioned at the front of the mouth.

	not round front	not round central	round back
high	i	ɨ	u
not high	e / ɛ	a / ə	o / ɔ

Kera has vowel harmony.

In Kera, many words are required to only have vowels in the **high** or **not high** vowel class. For example, a word may have any of the vowels **i ə u** or any of the vowels **e a o**, but words containing both, e.g. words with **i** and **o**, are prohibited.

## References

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1. Kera (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/ker/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Kera" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/ker1255>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Atanga, Lilian Lem; Ellece, Sibonile Edith; Litosseliti, Lia; Sunderland, Jane (2013). *Gender and Language in Sub-Saharan Africa: Tradition, Struggle and Change* (<https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=EXbjecKfE8YC&printsec=frontcover&dq=isbn:9027218749&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi76aeBIMviAhU8ShUIHWd-DG8Q6AEIKjAA#v=onepage&q&f=false>). John Benjamins Publishing. p. 82. ISBN 9789027218742.
4. "Vowels in harmony - Kera" (<https://www.sil.org/linguistics/vowels-harmony-ker>). *SIL International*. 2013-02-08. Retrieved 2019-06-02.
5. <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/3aa8/052c008ef2d5b38f0146cf59c5d2641b8795.pdf> ATR allophones or undershoot in Kera? Retrieved 2019-06-02.

## External links

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- Research on stress in Kera (<http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/research/Pearce,%20Phonology%202006.pdf>)

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